

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **PIEDMONT MAN SENTENCED TO 110 MONTHS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

April 23, 2007

A Piedmont, Missouri, man was sentenced today on charges of unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

**JOHN B. McLAUGHLIN**, age 41, was sentenced to 110 months on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge E. Richard Webber.

On January 9, 2006, McLaughlin stopped for gas at a country store in Wayne County, Missouri, and left the store without paying for the gas. The store clerk called law enforcement officers with a general description of the truck and told the officers that the driver had a firearm in the cab of the truck.

A couple of hours later, a Missouri State Highway Patrolman on routine patrol observed a truck fitting the general description of the truck and tried to stop the vehicle, but the driver sped up and would not pull over. Speeds during this chase exceeded 100 miles per hour. McLaughlin was eventually stopped and arrested. Officers discovered that the truck was stolen by McLaughlin earlier in the day along with the rifle that was in the cab of the truck.

Due to McLaughlin's previous felony convictions, he is prohibited by law from possessing firearms.

Hanaway praised the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.